

Proposed Recommendations

The Commission makes the following recommendations to the 2010 Session:

1. The Commission recommends that the General Assembly amend the criteria used by the Committee on Dropout Prevention for awarding the dropout prevention grants to give priority to applications from counties with no current grant recipients.
2. The Commission recommends that the General Assembly amend the criteria used by the Committee on Dropout Prevention for awarding the dropout prevention grants to give priority to programs that would serve students in local schools that have a four-year cohort graduation rate of less than sixty percent (60%) in the most recent school year and one of two prior school years or that have a performance composite under 50%.
3. The Commission recommends that the Committee on Dropout Prevention use the evaluations of programs from prior grant cycles to identify programmatic elements that have been shown to be effective. The Commission recommends that the General Assembly direct the Committee on Dropout Prevention to give priority to grant applications that use a combination of these successful programmatic elements.
4. The Commission supports the development and implementation of the P-20 data system and encourages that data on all students, including students educated by the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, is collected.
5. The Commission encourages LEAs and the Committee to encourage the use of data available from the EVAAS system to provide an early warning of students that are at-risk of falling behind and dropping out of school.
6. The Commission recommends that up to \$100,000 of the funds appropriated for the evaluation of the dropout prevention grants be used to assess successful programs in districts that have not received dropout prevention grants for comparison purposes and to track the progress of programs that received grants in previous years but are no longer receiving dropout prevention grants.
7. The Commission encourages LEAs to match students who are at-risk of dropping out with a staff member who has agreed to act as a mentor.
8. The Commission recommends that LEAs encourage students to participate in internships and job shadowing.
9. The Commission directs The UNC Board of Governors to direct the appropriate entity to study the impacts of raising the compulsory attendance age from sixteen to seventeen or eighteen, and to report by January 31, 2011 to the General Assembly on the study.

10. The Commission recommends that funds be appropriated for Communities in Schools to place 100 graduation coaches in middle and high schools.

11. The Commission directs the State Board of Education as follows:

- Prior to the 2010-2011 school year, the State Board of Education develop a growth model establishing annual goals for continuous and substantial improvement in the 4-year cohort graduation rate by local school administrative units.
- The State Board establish as a short term goal that local school administrative units meet the annual growth model goals for improvement in the 4-year cohort graduation rate beginning with the graduating class of 2011 and continuing annually thereafter.
- The State Board establish as a long-term goal a statewide 4-year cohort graduation rate of ninety percent by 2016.